



# 2026 OPEN CLASS AND REGIONAL YOUTH DAIRY CATTLE ENTRY BOOK

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**SECRETARY:** Todd Henrichs

**OPEN CLASS JUDGE:** Christy Ratliff

**REGIONAL YOUTH JUDGE:** Allyn Paulson

**ENTRIES CLOSE AUGUST 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026, AT 11:59 P.M.**

**LATE ENTRIES FOR DOUBLE THE ENTRY FEE UNTIL AUGUST 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026, AT 11:59 P.M.**

## 1. Entries

- a. All Nebraska State Fair Livestock Entries are online at <https://www.statefair.org/competitions/livestock-exhibitors>
- b. **Entry Fees.**
  - i. \$50 per head for each division entered – Includes bedding
  - ii. Designated livestock exhibitor parking areas will require a parking pass to be purchased. This parking pass can be purchased when completing online entries or at the livestock check-in trailer.
- c. **Entering the Youth Dairy Show is a separate entry from entering the Open Class Dairy Show. To exhibit in both you must complete entries for both and pay entry fees for both by the entry deadline.**
- d. All entries must meet health requirements (see Health Regulations and Health Requirements for Animals Exhibited at the 2026 Nebraska State Fair).
- e. **Additional Health Regulations/Certificate of Veterinary Inspection**
  - i. A Certificate of Veterinary Inspection **MUST** accompany all **OUT OF STATE** animals entered.
  - ii. Nebraska origin animals do **NOT** require a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection.
  - iii. **Only animals showing NO signs of infectious or contagious diseases, such as ringworm or abscesses, will be allowed to show.**
- f. All classes will be governed by the rules and regulations of the Purebred Dairy Cattle Association and the Nebraska State Fair.
- g. No late entries will be accepted after August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026, no exception.
- h. **Substitutions within the same age division, same breed, and same owner will be accepted at check-in. (Junior Animal for Junior Animal; NOT Junior Animal for Senior Animal) Only one substitution for the original animal will be allowed. There will be no substitutions allowed for different owners. NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- i. All entrants must have read, be familiar with and are subject to the Nebraska State Fair General Livestock Information, Rules and Regulations and Health Requirements for animals

exhibited at the Nebraska State Fair. By submitting entry to the Nebraska State Fair exhibitor agrees to abide by these rules

- j. The Nebraska State Fair maintains a milking parlor where dairy cattle owners may do their milking.
  - i. All dairy cows milked in the milking parlor must be free of all antibiotics and RBST. Any dairy exhibitor that does not abide by this will be held liable for any milk that is contaminated by their cows.
  - ii. Milking facilities will be open during the Nebraska State Fair.

## 2. Special Open Class Rules

- a. All animals exhibited in the Open Class Dairy Cattle Department at the Nebraska State Fair **must be REGISTERED** with their respective breed associations by check-in. Each exhibitor must produce a certificate of registry on or before the day of check -in. No photocopies or applied-for registration papers will be allowed. This is the responsibility of each exhibitor. No exceptions will be allowed.
- b. There is no limit to the number of animals an exhibitor may enter in this division or in any one of these classes. However, there is a limit of two monetary awards per exhibitor per class.
- c. Every female animal over 36 months old must have produced a living calf within 18 months or prove to be with calf.
- d. Additional Awards
  - i. Premier Exhibitor Award
    - 1. This award is to be made to the exhibitor winning the most points (not to exceed 6 animals owned and exhibited by exhibitor) in the open single classes, not including the best udder cow class. There is no limit on numbers exhibited, but award automatically figured on the top 6 animals winning the most points. For animals that are jointly owned, the Premier Exhibitor points will go to the exhibitor that entered the animal.
    - 2. Exhibitor is defined as “Where a herd is registered in the names of different members of a family residing on one farm and where the herd is one unit, all entries may be considered as a single exhibitor for Premier Exhibitor.”
  - ii. Premier Breeder Award
    - 1. This award to be made to the breeder—not to exceed 6 animals (winning the most points in the open single classes, not including the best udder cow class and including animals bred by him/her but exhibited by others). There is no limit on number exhibited, but award automatically figured on top 6 animals winning the most points.
  - iii. In selection of Premier Exhibitor and Premier Breeder awards, the point system is as follows: (Animals with incomplete entry information will not be scored.)
    - 1. Senior Females
      - a. 1<sup>st</sup> – 20, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 18, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 16, 4<sup>th</sup> – 14, 5<sup>th</sup> – 12, 6<sup>th</sup> – 10, 7<sup>th</sup> – 8, 8<sup>th</sup> – 6, 9<sup>th</sup> – 4, 10<sup>th</sup> – 2
    - 2. Junior Females
      - a. 1<sup>st</sup> – 10, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 9, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8, 4<sup>th</sup> – 7, 5<sup>th</sup> – 6, 6<sup>th</sup> – 5, 7<sup>th</sup> – 4, 8<sup>th</sup> – 3, 9<sup>th</sup> – 2, 10<sup>th</sup> – 1

## 3. Special Youth Show Rules

- a. Exhibitors must be a minimum of 8 years old by the day of show to participate, but not reached their 21st birthday by January 1 of the year of competition. Open to all exhibitors from all states.

- b. **Youth may show a maximum of 5 dairy animals. Entries must be made in the name of the exhibitor, NOT the farm name.**
- c. Ownership of animals is required prior to June 15, 2026. Registered and identified grade female animals are eligible. Animal registration must include family farm or exhibitor's name OR be identified on 4-H or FFA identification form. Must present registration sheet or ID sheet at check in.
- d. Youth dairy cattle will be stalled among open dairy animals.
- e. **A t-shirt will be provided to all exhibitors. Exhibitors MUST enter a showmanship division & choose their shirt size at the time of entry. If not interested in showmanship, exhibitors can scratch out at the time of check-in.**
- f. All animals entered in the youth show are not released until the conclusion of the youth show.

#### 4. The Purebred Dairy Cattle Association Show Ring Code of Ethics

- a. The showing of registered dairy cattle stimulates and sustains interest in the breeding of registered dairy cattle. It is also an important part of the promotion, merchandising and breeding program of many breeders. For these reasons, the Purebred Dairy Cattle Association (PDCA) believes that it is in the best interest of all breeders of registered dairy cattle to maintain a reputation of integrity in dairy cattle shows and to present a wholesome and progressive image of dairy cattle in the show ring.
- b. PDCA endorses this Show Ring Code of Ethics for all dairy breed shows and pledges its full cooperative support for its enforcement to show management, show judges, and the national breed associations.
- c. The application of this Code of Ethics provides for absolute responsibility for an animal's condition by an owner, exhibitor, fitter or participant whether or not he or she was actually instrumental in or had actual knowledge of the treatment of the animal in contravention of this Code of Ethics. Dairy cattle exhibitors shall, at all times, deport themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship.
- d. It is recognized that there are certain practices in the proper care and management of dairy cattle that are necessary in the course of moving dairy cattle to and between shows that are advisable to keep them in a sound, healthy state so they might be presented in the show ring in a natural, normal condition. At all times, exhibition livestock shall be treated in a humane manner and in accordance with dairy quality assurance practices so as to protect the health, safety and welfare of the livestock and the consuming public. No person shall present for exhibition or exhibit an animal which he or she knows, or has reason to suspect, is affected with or has been exposed to a dangerously contagious or infectious disease, or illegal or non-approved use of drugs, medication and/or prohibited substance, or residue.
- e. The position of the Purebred Dairy Cattle Association is that all animals presented for exhibition shall be in their natural conformation and structure, free of any alteration or modification by injection or internal or external administration of any substance or by any involvement in unethical fitting.
- f. Grooming and Preparation
  - i. Dairy cattle exhibitions are conducted under standards for evaluating conformation established by the PDCA Unified Score Card (2009), with specific breed characteristics taken into consideration by the show judge. In this connection, animals will be groomed and prepared for the judge's evaluation in order to display the animal's natural contour, conformation, performance and mobility. Specifically:

1. Changing the natural color of the animal is prohibited (effective 6/1/2015). However, external applications of cosmetics that affect only appearance may be used, including by way of example hoof polishes and false switches.
  2. The maximum allowable length of naturally growing hair anywhere on the topline is not to exceed 1". Exhibitors will be required to comply with this rule before the animal is allowed to enter the ring.
  3. Addition of foreign objects, including but not limited to hair or hair substitutes, cloth or fiber, to change the natural contour or appearance of the animal's body is prohibited.
  4. Externally sealing the teat end with a preparation that does not harm the animal's skin is permissible. Natural teat placement will be given preference over artificially positioned teats.
- g. Violations: False, Deceptive or Unacceptable Practices
- i. These practices are violations of the Code of Ethics and will be reported to show management and may be reported to the respective national breed associations:
    1. Misrepresenting the age and/or milking status of the animal for the class in which it is shown.
    2. Treating the animal, particularly the udder, internally or externally
      - a. With an irritant or counterirritant, using a device to artificially create or enhance the udder crease, using other substances as detected by testing that causes changes in the udder to artificially improve the conformation plugging of teat canal with foreign substances.
    3. Surgical or unethical insertion of any matter under the skin or into body cavities, performed to change the natural contour or appearance of the animal's body (e.g., administration of fluid via a stomach tube or other similar apparatus to fill the rumen), though not to preclude practices required or involved in normal management.
    4. Criticizing or interfering with the judge, show management or other exhibitors while in the show ring or other conduct detrimental to the breed or the show.
    5. Challenging, threatening or interfering with an ethics committee appointed by show management to monitor the animals on exhibit on the show grounds.
- h. Exhibitor Responsibility
- i. The act of entering an animal in a livestock show is the giving of consent by the owner, exhibitor, fitter and/or responsible person (hereinafter referred to as "Exhibitor") for show management to obtain any specimens of urine, saliva, blood, milk, or other substances from the animal to be used in testing. Materials may also be collected by ultrasound and photographic methods and by direct examination of animal.
  - ii. The act of entering an animal is the giving of consent by the owner, exhibitor, fitter and/or absolutely responsible person (the "Exhibitor") to have disciplinary action for violation of this Show Ring Code of Ethics taken by show management, the state in which the show occurs, and/or the national dairy breed association without recourse.

<b>OPEN CLASS SHOW ORDER</b>
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**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**

**Junior Female Show**

*9 a.m.*

Milking Shorthorn  
Ayrshire  
Brown Swiss  
Guernsey  
Holstein  
Jersey

Supreme Junior Female

**Senior Female Show**

*12:30 p.m.*

Milking Shorthorn  
Ayrshire  
Brown Swiss  
Guernsey  
Holstein  
Jersey

Supreme Senior Female

**OPEN DAIRY SHOW (DIVISIONS 601-616)**

**OPEN DAIRY DIVISIONS**

	<b>JUNIOR DIVISIONS</b>	<b>SENIOR DIVISIONS</b>
<b>Milking Shorthorn</b>	601	611
<b>Ayrshire</b>	602	612
<b>Brown Swiss</b>	603	613
<b>Guernsey</b>	604	614
<b>Holstein</b>	605	615
<b>Jersey</b>	606	616

**JUNIOR FEMALES**

<b>6000</b>	Spring Heifer Calf	March 1 – April 30, 2026	Ribbon
<b>6002</b>	Winter Heifer Calf	December 1, 2025 – February 28, 2026	Ribbon
<b>6004</b>	Fall Heifer Calf	September 1 – November 30, 2025	Ribbon
<b>6006</b>	Summer Yearling	June 1 – August 31, 2025	Ribbon
<b>6008</b>	Spring Yearling	March 1 – May 31, 2025	Ribbon
<b>6010</b>	Winter Yearling	December 1, 2024 – February 28, 2025	Ribbon
<b>6012</b>	Fall Yearling	September 1 – November 30, 2024	Ribbon
	<b>Champion Junior Female</b>		<b>Banner/\$100</b>
	<b>Reserve Champion Junior Female</b>		<b>Banner/\$75</b>

**SENIOR FEMALES**

6020	Dry Cow	September 1, 2023 or before, must have completed one lactation & be safe in calf	Ribbon
6022	Milking Yearlings	September 1, 2024 or later	Ribbon
6024	Junior 2-Year-Old	March 1 – August 31, 2024	Ribbon
6026	Senior 2-Year-Old	September 1, 2023 – February 29, 2024	Ribbon
6028	Junior 3-Year-Old	March 1 – August 31, 2023	Ribbon
6030	Senior 3-Year-Old	September 1, 2022 – February 28, 2023	Ribbon
6032	4-Year-Old	September 1, 2021 – August 31, 2022	Ribbon
6034	Aged Cow	August 31, 2021 or earlier	Ribbon
	<b>Champion Senior Female</b>		<b>Banner/\$100</b>
	<b>Reserve Champion Senior Female</b>		<b>Banner/\$75</b>

<b>Supreme Champion Junior Female</b>	<b>\$300</b>
<b>Reserve Supreme Champion Junior Female</b>	<b>\$200</b>
<b>Supreme Champion Senior Female</b>	<b>\$300</b>
<b>Reserve Supreme Champion Senior Female</b>	<b>\$200</b>

## REGIONAL YOUTH SHOW ORDER

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**

**Showmanship**

*9 a.m.*

Senior – Intermediate – Junior – Novice

**Junior Female Show**

Milking Shorthorn

Ayrshire

Brown Swiss

Guernsey

Holstein

Jersey

**Supreme Junior Female**

**Senior Female Show**

Milking Shorthorn

Ayrshire

Brown Swiss

Guernsey

Holstein

Jersey

**Supreme Senior Female**

## SHOWMANSHIP (DIVISION 650)

**Division based on age the day of the show.** Winners in each age division may continue to compete in their respective age division, regardless of winning in a prior year. Premiums are not paid for showmanship classes.

A t-shirt will be provided to all exhibitors. Exhibitors MUST enter a showmanship division & choose their shirt size at the time of entry. If not interested in showmanship, exhibitors can scratch out at the time of check-in. The options are Adult Small, Adult Medium, Adult Large, Adult X-Large and Adult XX-Large.

## CLASSES

6500	Senior	17-21 years old	Ribbon
6502	Intermediate	14-16 years old	Ribbon
6504	Junior	11-13 years old	Ribbon
6506	Novice	8-10 years old	Ribbon
	<b>Class Winners</b>		<b>Award</b>

## REGIONAL YOUTH DAIRY SHOW (DIVISIONS 651-676)

### YOUTH DAIRY DIVISIONS

	JUNIOR DIVISIONS	SENIOR DIVISIONS
Milking Shorthorn	651	671
Ayrshire	652	672
Brown Swiss	653	673
Guernsey	654	674
Holstein	655	675
Jersey	656	676

### JUNIOR FEMALES

6510	Spring Heifer Calf	March 1 – April 30, 2026	Ribbon
6512	Winter Heifer Calf	December 1, 2025 – February 28, 2026	Ribbon
6514	Fall Heifer Calf	September 1 – November 30, 2025	Ribbon
6516	Summer Yearling	June 1 – August 31, 2025	Ribbon
6518	Spring Yearling	March 1 – May 31, 2025	Ribbon
6520	Winter Yearling	December 1, 2024 – February 28, 2025	Ribbon
6522	Fall Yearling	September 1 – November 30, 2024	Ribbon
	<b>Grand Champion Junior Female</b>		<b>Banner</b>
	<b>Reserve Grand Champion Junior Female</b>		<b>Banner</b>

### SENIOR FEMALES

6550	Dry Cow	September 1, 2023 or before, must have completed one lactation & be safe in calf	Ribbon
6552	Junior 2-Year-Old	March 1 – August 31, 2024	Ribbon
6554	Senior 2-Year-Old	September 1, 2023 – February 29, 2024	Ribbon
6556	3-Year-Old	September 1, 2022 – August 31, 2023	Ribbon
6558	4-Year-Old	September 1, 2021 – August 31, 2022	Ribbon
6560	Aged Cow	August 31, 2021 or earlier	Ribbon
	<b>Grand Champion Senior Female</b>		<b>Banner</b>
	<b>Reserve Grand Champion Senior Female</b>		<b>Banner</b>

<b>Supreme Champion Junior Female</b>	<b>\$100</b>
<b>Reserve Supreme Champion Junior Female</b>	<b>\$50</b>
<b>Supreme Champion Senior Female</b>	<b>\$150</b>
<b>Reserve Supreme Champion Senior Female</b>	<b>\$100</b>

## PREMIUMS

All premiums will be paid directly from the Nebraska State Fair. Exhibitors receiving \$600 or more in premiums will be required to complete a W-9 before receiving payment.

OPEN CLASS PREMIUMS				
PLACING				
1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
\$70	\$65	\$60	\$50	\$35

SPECIAL NEBRASKA CLASS PREMIUMS		
PLACING		
1	2	3
\$10	\$8	\$6

YOUTH CLASS PREMIUMS						
PLACING						
1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>
\$60	\$50	\$40	\$35	\$25	\$20	\$15

**\$250 ADDITIONAL MONEY FOR SUPREME  
CHAMPIONS FROM GRAND ISLAND RESORT & CASINO**

**Nothing More  
Nebraskan**